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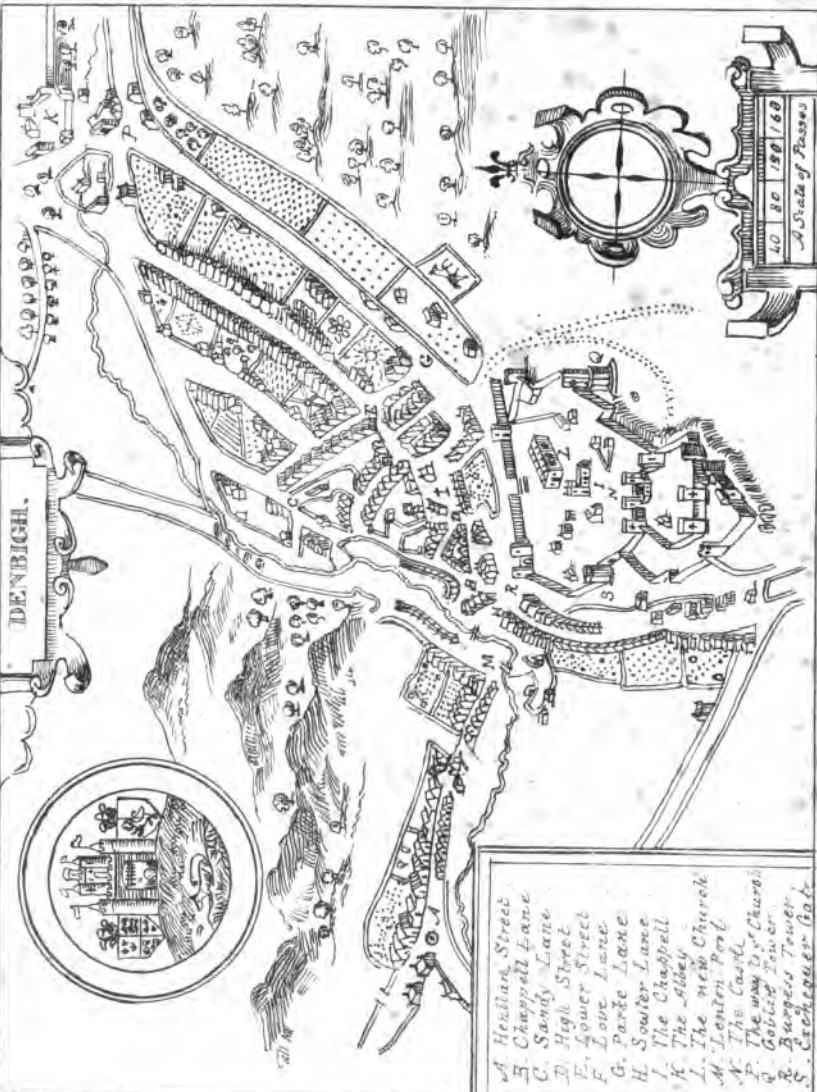
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AN  
ACCOUNT  
OF  
THE CASTLE AND TOWN  
OF  
**Denbigh.**

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PRINTED AT THE CLWYDIAN-PRESS, DENBIGH,

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*From the gift of  
Prof. F.N. Robinson*

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TO  
**THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS**

OF THE

*Denbigh Welsh Literary Society;*

**THIS ACCOUNT**

OF

**Denbigh Castle and Town,**

**IS DEDICATED,**

**BY THEIR OBLIGED AND OBEDIENT SERVANT,**

**RICHARD NEWCOME.**

**CLOISTERS, RUTHIN,  
March 1st, 1839.**





AN ACCOUNT  
OF THE  
CASTLE AND TOWN OF DENBIGH.

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"Therefore, Denbigh, thou bear'st away the praise;  
"Denbigh hath got the garland of our dais:  
"Denbigh reaps fame and lawde a thousand waies,  
"Denbigh my pen unto the clowdes shall raise.  
"The Castle there could I in order drawe,  
"It should surmount now all that e'er I sawe."

*Churchyard's Worthines of Wales.*

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**T**HERE is nothing more adapted to impress the mind of an inhabitant of this island with satisfaction and gratitude for that peaceful state of society in which his days are appointed, than the contemplation of such remains as are connected with the following brief history. An ancient embattled and turretted fortress on the heights of Dover or Bamborough, tells chiefly of protection from foreign foes; while such a one

as the present, and many others in the interior of our country, surrounded by smiling fields and fertile meadows, reminds us that, in ages past, our happy land was not at unity in itself. We need not proceed to describe the feudal times in which they originated, as the very name applied to that age, though descriptive only of landed tenure, has now become synonymous with rapine and warfare. Each chieftain built his strong hold, portioned out his lands to his retainers, on the terms of rallying round his standard on frequent occasions of defence or hostile aggression.

In searching British annals for accounts from which to infer whether any fortification existed on the Caledfryn yn Rhôs, (the more ancient name of Denbigh\*) we

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\* The etymology of Denbigh is uncertain. The first syllable of the name is, without doubt, *Dinas*—a City; and, per-

meet with the following, which not only illustrates the foregoing remark on the character of feudal times, but may satisfy us, that the site of Denbigh Castle contained a strong hold to the ruler of some of the adjoining cantrefs of Dyffryn Clwyd, Rhôs, and Rhyfoniog.\* “1115 Y bu ryfel rhwng Howel ab Ithel, yr hwn oedd yn cynnal Rhôs a Ryfoniog, a meibion Owain ab Edwyn o Degaingl, Ririd a Llowarch a'u brodyr ereill. Ac yna anvon y mae Howel ab Ithel ab Ririd ab Bleddyn, am Meredydd ab Bleddyn ei ewythr, a meibion Cadwgan ab Bleddyn yn borth iddo, canys wynt oedd yn cynnal y rhannau hynny o'r wlâd y gan Owain ab Edwyn. Ac wynt

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haps, the last is a proper name. Walters's Dictionary makes it *Dinas buch*, i. e. the desirable City.

\* From Llyfr Basing (the Book of Basinwerk Abbey) written by Gytlyn Owen, a Monk there in the time of Edward IV. and now in the possession of Thomas Griffiths, Esq. of Wrexham.

a ddoethant i Dyffryn Clwyd a'u llu, can-  
ys y wlad honno oedd eiddo Owain ab Ed-  
wyn. A gwedi glowed o veibion Owain ab  
Edwyn oedd Howel a Meredydd a meibion  
Cadwgan yn dyfod, wynt a gynnullasant  
gyda meibion uchtryd i'w cefnderw i hollallu  
ar Ffrancod o Gaerlleon, ac a doethant yn i  
erbyn ac ymladd yn wychdir greulon o bob  
parth, ac o'r diwedd y ffoes meibion Owain  
ab Edwyn, ac y llas Llowarch ab Owain  
ab Edwyn, a Iorwerth ab Meredydd, gwr  
da anrhydeddus, a llawer gyda hynny.  
Howel ab Ithel a vrathwyd, ac yn y seithfed  
wythnos y bu farw o'r brath." i. e. "In  
the year 1115, there was war between  
Howel ab Ithel, who held Rhôs and Ro-  
foniog, and Ririd and Llowarch and their  
brethren, the sons of Owain ab Edwyn of  
Degaingl. Hereupon Howel ab Ithel ab  
Ririd ab Bleddyn sends for Meredydd ab  
Ririd ab Bleddyn his uncle, and the sons

of Cadwgan ab Bleddyn, to his assistance, for they held those parts of the country from Owain ab Edwyn. Then they came to Dyffryn Clwyd with their forces, for that country belonged to Owain ab Edwyn. And when the sons of Owain ab Edwyn heard that Howel and Meredydd and the sons of Cadwgan had arrived, they, together with their sons, joined their cousin with all their forces and the Normans of Chester, and came against him, and the fight was sharp and cruel on both sides. At last, the sons of Owain ab Edwyn fled, and Llo-warch the son of Owain ab Edwyn was slain, and also Iorwerth the son of Meredydd, a good and honourable man, and many with him. Howel ab Ithel was stabbed, and, seven weeks after, died of his wound." This feudal scuffle affords a specimen of the barbarity of the times before described, and a fair presumption, there

was a strong post or rallying point adjoining the contending territories; and if so, where more likely than the Caledfryn yn Rhôs ?\*

The first certain account of the existence of a castle on this hill, is about the time of the final conquest of the Principality. Welsh Chronicles say, that the English monarch granted the custody of Denbigh Castle, with that of Frodsham in Cheshire, to David ab Gruffudd, brother to Llewelyn the last Prince of Wales, of the native stock. This David assumed the title of Prince of Wales, on his brother's death at Bualt; and, having previously made his peace with his brother and his countrymen, summoned the ancient British chieftains to

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\* Perhaps there was an out-post at the house now called Coppy, i. e. Coppau, on the road towards Henllan, viz. small wooden castellets on the tops of mounds of earth, of which there may have been another at Gop, some miles further.

his Castle at Denbigh to concert measures for the recovery of their country. His sad and cruel fate is well known, though our sorrow is mitigated by recollecting he had long been untrue to his native land. The very castle, to which he summoned the chieftains for this purpose, he had been content to hold from the King of England, to whom it had been conceded, together with the four cantrefs of D. Clwyd, Rhôs, Rhy-foniog, and Tegaingle. This cession first took place on the death of Griffith ab Llewelyn, who lost his life in an attempt to escape from the tower of London, in the reign of Henry III; but the right of inheritance to estates was reserved to the owners, on which Welsh law was continued. The King of England had acquired a legal title to the territories he granted to Prince David, but infringed the terms; for Geoffrey de Langley, to whom was granted the

custody of the country between Chester and the river Conway, endeavoured to introduce English laws and customs, which induced the inhabitants to rebel, and was among the just pleas for Llewelyn's last unsuccessful struggle. This grant was in the end, fatal to Prince David, being the plea, together with his English knighthood, for legalizing his barbarous execution. Being by means of this grant an English baron, King Edward caused him to be tried by his peers, whom he summoned \* to Shrewsbury for this purpose, and where, on their sentence, he suffered a cruel and ignominious death. He was in turn given up to his enemies by his own countrymen, to whose liberties he had so long been untrue. It is probable, that Prince David made his residence at Lleweni, in the vicinity, which

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\* *Vide Rymer Fed. Vol 2. p. 247. for this Summons.*



was a possession attached to this lordship. In the number of griefs laid before John Peckham, arch-bishop of Canterbury, he stated, that Reginald de Grey had cut down his woods\* of Lleweni: and one of our celebrated bards, Iolo Gôch, in a mysterious englyn, in which he warned his master Owen Glendwr against the insidious designs of a descendant of this Reginald de Grey, of the same name, alluding to Prince David, uses the term of llys Leweni, or the palace of Lleweni. His brother Llewelyn had once resided at a palace near Maesmynan, not far off, when in possession of D. Clwyd and the other cantrefs, though he, as well as his brother, might have resided in Denbigh Castle, had it been commodious, even for the habits of those rude times.

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\* The right name may perhaps be *Llwynan*,—Groves, Woods.

On the death of David ab Griffith, the lordship of Denbigh and its Castle was granted to Henry de Lacy, earl of Lincoln, and constable of Chester, who erected on the ruins of the former castle, the fortress whose magnificent remains, now claim attention. Perhaps he only made additions to the former castle. This illustrious race\* seems to have taken a view of the promised land and tasted its fruits, previous to this grant to its representative; for we find it another of Prince David's griefs, before mentioned, that the King of England had taken to himself the lands of Gwenllian de Lacy, though they had been granted to her only for life, and were to have reverted on her death to the granter [*vide*

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\* In Shakspeare's second part of Henry VI. Scene 2. Act 4. Cade, in order to boast his family, says, "My wife descended of the *Lacies*.—Dick. She was indeed a pedlar's daughter, and sold *laces*.—Cade. Therefore am I of an honourable house."

Powel.] This circumstance, and the British name of the lady, leads us to conjecture, that a scion of this noble family had possessed himself of a Welsh heiress on this lordship.\*

This Henry de Lacy, lord of Denbigh, was the son of Edmund Lacy the son of John Lacy, lord of Halton, Pomfret, and constable of Chester, by Margaret the eldest daughter of Robert Guincy, earl of Lincoln. He married Margaret, sole heiress of William Longepeé, earl of Salisbury, and had issue Edmund and John, who both died young, of whom the eldest perished by falling into a well inside the castle, the vestige of which well is still shown not far from the entrance. He had

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\* The lands of *Wenchal* de Lacy, says Pennant, were granted to Lord Grey de Ruthin. *Wenchal* is an English corruption of *Gwenllian*.

also a daughter named Alicia, married to Thomas Plantagenet, earl of Lancaster, who became, in right of his wife, earl of Lincoln, Sarum, Denbigh, Halton, Pomfret, and constable of Chester. After the death of the said Thomas, Edward II. gave the lordship of Denbigh to his favourite Hugh Despenser, earl of Winchester. After Hugh's death, the lordship of Denbigh was given by Edward III. in the first year of his reign, as appears on record, to Roger Mortimer, earl of March, with divers other lordships in the Marches, in performance of the king's promise, while in France with his mother, for the provision of £. 1000 lands of a reasonable extent to the said Roger, as soon as by God's grace he should come to the possession of the crown of England. The earl of March being attainted, the lordship of Denbigh was given to Lord Montague, earl of Sarum, but shortly af-

ter, *Anno* 29, Edward III, it was restored again, with the earldom of March, to the Mortimers, in which family it remained until the whole inheritance of the Mortimers came, by the marriage of a daughter, to the house of York, and so vested in the crown, where it has ever since remained.\*

Immediately on the grant from Edward I. Henry de Lacy commenced the castle, the ruins of which appear at present; but we are told, he desisted from the work on the melancholy death of his son Edmund, departed from the castle, and never returned. He was born in 1251, died in 1310,

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\* This Account is extracted from *Enderbie's Cambria Triumphans*, Vol 2. p. 330. There is also a splendid illuminated M. S. exhibiting Hugh Lupus in his robes, surrounded by his peers, in the Chester city library, which agrees with this account, and further adds, that Henry de Lacy enjoined his daughter Alice to ensure her inheritance to her husband, the earl of Lancaster, and to the issue of his brother lord Henry of Monmouth, which she performed.

and was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral, where his tomb remained till the destruction of that church in the great fire of London, a century and half ago.

Like all the Anglo-norman nobility who obtained grants in the Principality, de Lacy is recorded as an oppressor, though his conduct was, comparatively, of minor atrocity. In order to make his demesne as commodious as he desired, he is said by Sir John Wynn, in his History of the Gwydir family, not indeed, like others, to have forcibly dispossessed former occupiers, but to have compelled them to make exchanges of land. He however obtained a charter of incorporation for his town of Denbigh (no slight privilege in those days, as it afforded protection to trade) and granted his vassals many immunities, of which one of his successors abridged them. On the whole,

therefore, this potent lord must stand as a benefactor of Denbigh. Pennant, who has left little, that is most material, unsaid of this ancient and interesting place,\* adds, this castle was never entirely completed. But we may form an accurate idea of the work of Henry de Lacy, as it existed in its proudest days, by reference to Speed's Maps, first published more than two centuries ago; a copy of which is annexed to this Account. The original is given in the margin of his Map of the County of Denbigh, which is verified by a study of the present remains. Speed, being a native of Farndon in the neighbouring county of Chester, may be supposed to have drawn from an actual view.

That which properly constitutes the castle, crowns the summit of the Caledfryn.

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\* Tour in Wales, 8vo. Vol 2. page 38.

The area of its court-yard is an irregular curved space, equal to about 80 yards square. Its entrance faces the north, consisting of a magnificent arch, over which is an ornamented square niche, containing the effigies of the founder, sitting in his robes of state. This portal was flanked by two octagonal towers, one of which alone remains, containing similar shaped rooms below, and stair cases to appartments above. The ground room of the right hand tower, tradition calls the kitchen. On clearing the archway we enter another octagon room, which seems to fill up the space in front and between the two towers. In Speed's print, this space seems to be occupied by a breast work of four sides, connecting the towers and projecting into the court ; it appears to be merely a naked wall, though an inspection of the ruins leads us to suppose it is this room just mentioned, which was not car-



ried to the height of the towers. If so, it is that part which Pennant says, on the word of Leland, was never finished, owing to the departure of the founder on the sad catastrophe of his son. These entrance towers constituted the donjon, or keep, the residence of the lord of the castle. Under these towers, spacious vaults would probably be discovered, which were used for prisons.\* The mark of the fatal well appears at no great distance within the court. Not many yards from the right hand entrance tower, and in the corner of the castle area, was a large square tower, now entirely erased. A few yards to the left of the entrance, in the flat wall, is the window of a room called the king's chamber, from the occurrence

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\* The word dungeon is now exclusively applied to vaults under ground, though it belongs, properly, to the tower or keep above them.

of Charles the First having lodged in it on his retreat from Chester to this castle after his defeat at Rowton-heath, near Chester. This chamber, which shews four fire places, projects as a tower outside. Further on was another tower, from whence the walls of the ancient town commence, which will hereafter be noticed. Proceeding in the same direction, we observe a large room with spacious windows, projecting from the wall into the court. This is supposed to have been the chapel, but it more probably was a banqueting hall, for the chapel was then what is now the parish church, or chapel of St. Hilary. Speed represents a respectable looking building nearly in the centre of the court, of which not a vestige remains, which must have been the armoury and hall, if the foregoing conjecture be a mistaken one. Opposite to the entrance, and on the south side, were two small square

towers, with a portal between, leading into a smaller ballium, or court below, of an angular form. There were three turrets in this court, which was formed to protect the main castle from the too easy ascent of the hill on that side. This ultra-ward was again guarded outside by an artificial foss which is still visible.—So much for what is properly called the castle or citadel.—Next, as to that great irregular space, walled in, and turreted at intervals, running down the Caledfryn to the north and north-east of the castle. These walls included the whole of the original town; though, in later days, when Speed published, the town was precisely what it is at present; for in his plan the names of the principal streets are given, viz. Henllan-street, Chapel-lane, Sandy-lane, High-street, Lower-street, Love-lane, Park-lane, Sowter-lane, and Lenten Pool. This last still goes by the Welsh name

Llyn pwll y Garawys, and may have been a reservoir of fish to supply the garrison and town in the time of Lent. The present town must have taken its origin very soon after the erection of the fortress. Traders would crowd near for protection in those oppressive times. Add to this, the English names of the streets shew, they were applied by inhabitants from whose fraternity the natives were excluded. In many instances the towns were built outside the fortress and unprotected by walls, in which case, they were guarded, in some degree, by an outwork, called the barbican, which projected over the foss, and was connected with the castle by a draw-bridge. What is called here the burgess tower, was perhaps of this nature, and was therefore guarded and kept in repair by the burgesses. The corporation records shew, that this was once the borough gaol.

But to return to, and finish our observations on this enclosed and fortified space, which is called the original town. Speed represents only a few scattered small houses which seem to be the habitations of the soldiers and their families; and yet the articles of capitulation, in the reign of Charles I. speak of families of respectability, as it appears, residing within the garrison. The course of these walls is regulated by the shape of the Caledfryn, taking their direction from the north-west corner of the castle, where the form of the Caledfryn rendered them most defensible, and with a view of reaching the great tower touching on the parks below (the pasture ground of the garrison) which secured the spring of water called the Goblin Well. Sweeping from this tower a small distance to the north, then turning in a north-western direction, with turrets at intervals, these

walls reach the burgess tower before mentioned, thence again southerly, to the exchequer gate, the mere foundation stones of which are now visible. This gate connected with the walls of the small ultra-ward before mentioned, which sweep around to this point, made the circuit complete. Mr. Pennant says, the lordship court was held in the tower of this gate, and the rents received, from which it received its name. But it is also probable that it was so called after the statute of Henry VIII. chap. 27. sect. 9. which enacts, that "the king shall have one chancery and exchequer at the town of Brecknock, and another in his town and castle of Denbigh, forasmuch as the inhabitants are not of the substance, power, and ability to travel out of their counties to seek the administration of justice, and there the sheriffs, escheators, &c. shall yearly render their accounts before

the king's auditors and such chamberlain or baron of the exchequer as shall be appointed by the king. Before quitting this attempt at a description of ancient Denbigh, we must not pass unnoticed, a small enclosure, of a peaceful nature, which stood outside this fortified space; viz. the small priory of Carmelites, about a quarter of a mile from its northern extremity. It is not noticed by Dugdale, but Pennant informs us, on good authority, it was founded by John Salusbury, of Lleweni, who died, as appeared by a mutilated brass found in the conventual church, 7th of March, 1289. Therefore it must have been coeval with the present castle. Speed ascribes it to John de Sunimore, more than a century after, but the inscription fixes it on Salusbury. On the dissolution it was granted to Richard Andrews and William Lisle. It is pleasing to observe its site, declining, as

it were, the protection of the fortress, an emblem of that better kingdom, not of this world, equally the friend of the assailers and besieged, and fortified by the veneration of both.

There is nothing to be met with, for a length of time, to connect Denbigh castle with the general history of the kingdom, except that its lord was very soon summoned to perform his suit and service to the crown by furnishing his quota of men to the different arrays for war. We find in *Rymer's Fædera*, that so soon as the year 1309, the 3d of Edward II, it was summoned to furnish 200 men (*Rymer*, p. 157. vol. 3.) and it may serve to shew its comparative importance to observe, that, in the same array against the Scots, Ruthin castle sent the same number—Carnarvon the same—whilst Beaumaris sent 400—Engle-



field (Rhuddlan) 400—Merioneth and Ardudwy (Harddlech castle) 300—Bromfield and Yale (Holt castle) 300—Molesdale (Mold) 100—Maelor Saesneg 100. Sixteen years after, to the array for the Duchy of Aquitaine, (*Rymer*, Vol. 4. p. 137.) it sent one man at arms and 60 foot; whilst Ruthin sent 1 ditto and 30 do.—Bromfield and Yale 1 do. and 50 do.—Mold 1 do. and 10 do. To the French war, 1338, *Anno* 11. Edward III. (*Rymer*, Vol. 5. p. 9.) it sent 40 men—Ruthin 60—Bromfield and Yale 100. Five years after, and in the same reign, it sent to recruit the army in France, 219 men—Ruthin 166—Bromfield and Yale 332 (*Rymer*, Vol. 5. p. 353.)

The foregoing aids, for any thing that appears to the contrary, were quietly acquiesced in, though, on the first union of

the Principality with England, it is certain similar exactions did not go down so well with our countrymen ; for we are informed, that Edward I. " wanting money, there was a great subsidy granted towards the maintenance of the war with France, about the levying of which there was much ado in several places, but especially the Welshmen, who were never wont to be acquainted with such contributions, stormed against it, so that they took one of their captains (at Carnarvon) Roger de Pulesdon, (the ancestor of Sir Richard Puleston of Emral, and the Pulestons of Esclusham and Hafod y Wern,) who, at the king's command, gathered the said subsidy, and hanged him, with divers others, and afterwards beheaded the said Roger. This partial insurrection soon became general, and rebellion broke out in various parts both of north and south Wales. The north Wales men

set up Madoc, a relation of the last princes Llewelyn and David, and came to Carnarvon with a great power and put many Englishmen to death, and spoiled the town during a fair day, on which event, the king called back his brother Edmund earl of Lancaster, and Henry de Lacy earl of Lincoln, who had an army ready to pass into Gascony. As these earls approached towards the castle of Denbigh they were encountered and defeated," (*Enderbie's Camb. Triumphans*, book 4. p. 331.) The after grant of this castle to Henry de Lacy, and subsequently to the earl of Lancaster, must have been an assuager to the wound to military reputation sustained in these territories.

In the war with Glyndwr, the men of Denbigh, but whether invited by their chief or not does not appear, took part with their

countrymen in general against the usurping Henry IV. for we find them (*Rymer*, Vol. 8. p. 181.) included in the pardon, granted at the instance of Prince Henry, to the men of Carnarvon, Anglesey, Merioneth, Bromfield and Yale, Chirk, &c. &c.

In the wars of York and Lancaster, Denbigh castle was eminently a fortress of defence to the former, though the Principality in general took the same part, for it had now fallen to the House of York by the marriage of Richard earl of Cambridge, the grandfather of Edward IV. Leland asserts, that Edward IV. stood a siege in this castle, though his report is not confirmed by any other account, unless he alludes to Jasper Tudor, earl of Pembroke, who is said to have invaded Denbigh and took the castle for his half brother Henry VI. in 1459, and was expelled by Sir Richard Herbert.

Sir John Wynn, the Gwydir historian, informs us, that an ancestor of his, of the Lancastrian faction, invaded the Duke of York's estate in Denbigh land, and wasted with fire and sword the suburbs\* of Denbigh. But according to other accounts, it was the same Jasper Tudor who returned to the charge and headed this second invasion. In revenge of this, adds Sir John, Edward IV. sent William earl of Pembroke†, with a great army to waste the counties of Carnarvon and Merioneth, and to take the castle of Harddlech (held for Henry earl of Richmond) which earl performed his charges to the full, as witnesseth this Welsh rime :

“ Harddlech a Dinbech pob dor,—yn cunneu  
 Nanconway yn farwor,  
 Mll a phedwar cant mae Iôr,  
 A thragair ac wyth rhagor.”

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\* This expression shews, there must have been a town outside the walls answerable to the present town.

† There may have been two claimants of the earldom of Pembroke in these distracted times, each one supported by his respective faction.

“At Harddlech and Denbigh every house was in flames, and Nanconway in cinders 1400 from our Lord and sixty and eight more; i. e. this took place in 1468.”

In this expedition, Sir John adds, the whole country was reduced to *cold* cinders, meaning charcoal, for the whole country of Merioneth and Denbigh consisted of forest, and was but thinly inhabited. So great was the desolation, that some of Sir John's ancestors who had mortgaged their lands thought them not worth redeeming.

From this period to that of its final destruction, two hundred years after, Denbigh castle seems to have been exempt from wars alarms, with which the history of the Principality does not at all connect it. Like other numerous establishments of the sort, it continued of service to the state,

chiefly as a prison in the maintenance of the civil peace of the country. Hence we find in the legislation of Henry the Eighth's reign, which divided Wales into counties like England, each new formed jurisdiction is required to provide itself a common gaol, and that "the constables of the king's castles within the shire towns of Wales shall not be charged with gaols and prisoners committed to their custody but until such time as convenient places for such purposes be assigned to the sheriffs" (34—5 H. 8. sect 72.\*) This probably was the principal service this castle performed, for there is no account in *Rymer's Fædera* of

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\*The same statutes established quarter sessions and justices of the peace and of gaol delivery in Wales. The following is from "All Llyfr Tymplen," which is at Rûg, and was written by Mr. Jones of Gelli Lyfdy.

"Y session cynta yn Ninbech oedd ynghylch ugeinfed dydd o fis Hydref, oed Crist 1541, y bu y session gynta ger bron ystiad o Heddwch;" i. e. the first quarter session at Denbigh was about the 20th October, 1541.

its having furnished troops in any arrays but those already mentioned.

This magnificent Anglo-norman fortress, originally established to preserve the subjugation of the Principality, and therefore peopled almost entirely with English, has been the mean of introducing many families of English origin into the county, whose representatives now constitute some of its principal gentry. Of these are the Myddelton's,\* the Chambres', the Heaton's, the Peake's, and others who still remain, as well as the Latham's, the Curthose's, the Dryhurst's, the Pigot's, the Alsbel's (corrupted into Ashpool) who are extinct in this county. The last mentioned race indeed was more probably introduced by the Lord Grey of Ruthin, because its mansion called Plas

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\* The Salusbury's were introduced before this period.



Ashpool is in that lordship. Add to which a Welsh M.S. pedigree says, that "Adda Ashpool, or Adam Ashpool, the first of that name, came into Wales with the Lord Grey of Ruthin, 11<sup>o</sup> Edward prince, to whom the said Prince granted lands in Corvedwen, in Llandyrnog parish." On the other hand, the writer is informed by a friend, of a certain interesting relic in the possession of the relator and once the property of Mrs. Uniacke of Chester, widow of the grandson of the person who married the heiress of Ashpool, the history of which favours the first supposition. The relic referred to, is a gilded key with a crown at the top, which, by family tradition was said to be given by Edward I. to Henry de Lacy the founder of this castle, and worn by him and succeeding governors on high occasions. This representative of the family used to say, that one of its ances-

tors was house steward to the earl of Lincoln and keeper of the key, and for that reason the Ashpools were continued by his successors in the office. To traditional evidence such as this much credit is to be attached.

For want of any materials with which to intersperse the long interval between the wars of the two Roses and the reign of Queen Elizabeth, it must next be mentioned of that Queen, that she made a grant of Denbigh castle and its dependencies to her worthless favourite Robert Dudley earl of Leicester, in 1563, creating him Baron Denbigh. Though the rule of this infamous man is remembered principally by his bad acts here and elsewhere, yet is it permanently recorded at this place in the arms, or rather the seal, of the corporation, which on the sinister side of an embattled

and turreted castle bears his escutcheon, those of England being on the dexter, each surmounted with the Prince of Wales's plume. This seal must therefore have been granted on the renewal of the charter in his days. The corporation charter was first granted by Edward the First as before stated, at the instigation of Lord Lincoln, and was successively confirmed by Edward III. Richard II. and III. Queen Elizabeth enlarged its privileges, which were confirmed by Charles the Second. This last charter differs not in substance from Queen Elizabeth's, for it was among the acts of that unprincipled and extravagant king to seize on all the corporation charters in order to extort money on their redelivery. Pennant records, on authorities he shews, that Leicester constrained the tenants on the lordship to treble their rents to the sum of £. 900 per annum,

although they had presented him with £. 2000 by way of fine on his first entry. He also enclosed the waste to their great detriment, on which they rose in a body, and levelled his fences. This was construed into rebellion against the crown, and two hopeful young men of the Salusbury's of Lleweni were tried at Shrewsbury and suffered death.\* He had the insolence also to mortgage the lordship to some merchants in London, and of course tricked them of their money. In fine his conduct was such as obliged his royal Mistress to interfere and confirm the quiet possession to the tenants. No wonder that this lord became odious to his Denbigh people, but that he should also have become despised, as the

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\* Irritated probably by this judicial oppression, and alienated from his allegiance to his lawful prince by this calamity to his family, a member of this house took part in the Babington conspiracy, and was executed.

next incident will shew, cannot sufficiently be admired. That he became despised more than dreaded we have an admirable proof in the failure of his attempt to force a representative in parliament on the burgesses. In the year 1572, it was his will and pleasure that the burgesses should choose one Henry Dynne to the post, but they were refractory, and returned Mr. Richard Candishe. Among the corporation papers is a letter sent on this occasion by the earl of Leicester to the bailiffs, aldermen, and burgesses, blaming them for making choice of the burgess to parliament without his consent, and commanding them to alter their election and to choose Henry Dynne. The letter is as follows:

“ I have been latlie advertised how small consideration you have had of the L<sup>re</sup>. I wrote

unto you for the nomynasion of yo' burghess,  
 whereat as I cannot but greatlie mervayle (in  
 respect I am yo' L. and you my tenaunts,) as  
 also the manie good tournes and comodities w<sup>ch</sup> I have bene allways willinge to  
 procure you for the benefitte of your  
 whole state, so do I take the same in  
 so——, and will yt so unthankfullie, as yf  
 youe do not uppon receite hereof present-  
 lie revoke the same, and appointe such one  
 as I shall nominate, namelie Henrie Dynne,  
 be ye well assured never to loke for any  
 ffriendshipe or fav' at my hande in any yo'  
 affayres hereafter; not for any great ac-  
 compt I make of the thinge, but for that I  
 would not it shou'd be thought that I have  
 so small regard borne me at yo' hands,  
 who are boundeu to owe (as yo' L.) thus  
 much dutie as to know myne advice and  
 pleasure; that will haplie be alleadged that  
 your choice was made before the receipt of

my l<sup>re</sup> (in relie I would litle have thoughte that youe would have bene so forgetfull, or rather carelesse of me, as before yo' decion not to make me privie therto, or at the least to have some desire of myne advise therein (having tyme ynoughe so to do) but as you have of yo' selves thus rashlie proceded herein, without myne assent, soe have I thought good to signifie unto youe that I mean not to take it anywise at yo' hands, and therefore wyshe you more advisedly to consider hereof and to deale with me as maye continue my fav' towards you, otherwise loke for no fav' at my hands, and so fare ye well. From the court, this last day of Aprill, 1572.

R. LEYCESTER."

A late respectable writer on the history of Denbigh castle (Perambulator, in the Chester Courant, September 20th and

27th, 1825) is led to infer from this letter, that the contributory boroughs of Ruthin and Holt were mere nonentities at that time in the return of a member to parliament. But, *constitutionally* at least, this was not the case, for these boroughs had acquired this right coeval with the principal borough of the three by the statute 27 Henry VIII. chap. 26, latter part of 29th section, which enacts as follows. After providing for the election of knights of the shire and burgesses of boroughs, it is added, “and the burgesses’ fees to be levied and gathered as well of the borough and shire towns as they be burgesses of *as of all other antient boroughs* within the same shires.”—Thus establishing, that, as these boroughs were to contribute towards the maintenance of a representative in parliament, they had their voice in his election. It is with reference to these fees, that they are called the *contribu-*



*tory boroughs.* But though these ancient boroughs of Ruthin and Holt were entitled, *de jure*, to the deference which the great earl seems not to have paid them, yet, as to their importance, *de facto*, it may be observed, that his brother Ambrose Dudley earl of Warwick, as possessor of the castle and lordship of Ruthin at that time, was sole patentee for the manufacture of its burghesses, and Leicester himself having possession of the lordship of Bromfield and Yale, this would constitute him keeper of Holt Lyons.

To quiet his conscience perhaps for his many bad deeds here and elsewhere, and to make that sort of atonement for illgotten wealth and power which many oppressors had done before him,\* Lord Leicester began

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\* Henry VII. is said to have built the beautiful churches of Wrexham, Gresford, and Mold, out of the wealth he acquired by causing the death of Sir John Stanley.

a magnificent structure for a parish church in the style of architecture of that day, neither pure Grecian or gothic, the remains of which attempt are now visible near St. Hilary's chapel. Its date is engraved on a corner stone, viz. first of March, 1579, on which day its foundation was laid in honour of the patron saint of Wales. A moral sentence in Latin is added. A little below this inscription are the initials G. A. probably Gulielmus Asaphensis, viz. William Hughes, bishop of St. Asaph at that time. Pennant adds, from certain M.S.S. of the late Doctor Foulkes, an anecdote which shews how Denbigh suffered from both the royal favourites of that reign. The earl of Essex passing through Denbigh on his way to Ireland, borrowed from the corporation some thousands which had been raised for the completion of the work, which were never repaid, and the un-

finished work was abandoned to its present ruin.

The history of Denbigh castle may be embellished at this time by the eminent characters who were born within or near its walls. The sons of Richard Myddelton, governor in the reigns of Edward VI. Mary and Elizabeth, whose monument on a brass plate, representing himself and wife kneeling each at an altar with their nine sons and seven daughters ranged behind each respectively, is to be seen in the porch of the mother church, first claim notice. The third son William was an eminent sea captain, and still more eminent, at least in Wales, as a poet. By his skill and prowess our fleet which was sent to the Azores in 1591, under the command of Lord Thomas Howard, to intercept the Spanish galleons, was saved from destruction by

an overpowering force. As a Welsh poet, he published the Welsh Psalms in metre, and Barddoniaeth, or the art of Welsh poetry, the first in 1603, and the last in 1593. He published under the name of W. Ganoldref, which is Middleton translated into Welsh. The fourth son, Thomas, became lord Mayor of London, and purchasing Chirk castle, became the founder of that eminent family. Charles, the fifth son, succeeded his father as governor of Denbigh. But the most eminent of all was Hugh, the sixth son, made a baronet in 1622, who, as a benefactor to the metropolis in bringing the New River to supply its wants, is too generally known to need further mention here. He represented the boroughs in 1603—14—20—23—25 and 28, and presented silver cups to the corporations of Denbigh and Ruthin, being a burgess of both towns. These cups

are still preserved, as is another given by him to the head of his family at Gwaynynog. It is sad to be told, that his new river scheme, which was a blessing to thousands, was the ruin of his own fortune, and that the sole recompence he received on the completion of his work was the empty honour of being attended on its opening day by the king and court, and corporation of London, among whom was his brother the lord mayor elect.\*

The famous antiquary, historian, and rhetorician Humphrey Llwyd of Foxhall, near Denbigh, should not be passed over, as reflecting the greatest honour on Denbigh a few years previous to the foregoing worthies. But to detail his merits is hardly necessary, and would occupy more space than is suitable to the present detail. He

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\* There is reason to doubt the poverty in which Sir Hugh Myddelton has always been supposed to have died.

represented the boroughs in 1563, died in 1568, aged 41, and lies buried at Whitchurch, where his monument is to be seen.

Before quitting the Elizabethan era, it must be noticed, from Speed, that the shock of an earthquake, which did some damage in many parts, of the kingdom in 1575, was felt at Denbigh, and caused the bell of the Shire-hall to toll twice.

The following reign of James the First is quite barren of incident, but in the next succeeding one, being the last scene in the drama of Denbigh castle, the plot thickens towards the final catastrophe. It held out for Charles the First in his war with the parliament, and sustained most gallantly a siege of five months, and then surrendered at the desire of the king, and on the most honourable terms. The following detail is

made up from authentic documents written at the time, viz. the Memorandum Book of William Morris of Llansilin, in the possession of Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart. the Salusbury M.S.S. belonging to the Right honorable lord Bagot, and Memoranda, possessed by the heir of the Wynn's of Llwyn, and other public documents.

“ 1643. November 9, Houlte bridge was taken by Sir Thomas Myddelton. After taking Houlte bridge, William Salusbury of Rûg (and Bachymbyd) fortified Denbigh castle.”—*W. Morris*. “He received his commission from the king at this time and repaired the castle at his own charge, assisted by his kindred.”—*Symond's Diary*. William Sulusbury is known by the appellation of *Hosannau gleision*, from wearing blue stockings, and was a most worthy and loyal man, as the following particulars will

abundantly prove. He is thus recorded in a Welsh M.S. "William Salusbury, ceidwad dewr castell Dinbech yn erbyn milwr y senedd—yr oedd ef mor wresog o blaid y grêd ac yr oedd galonog o achos y Brenin. Efe a seiliodd ac a waddolodd capel Rûg :"  
i. e. W. Salusbury, the brave defender of Denbigh castle against the parliament general—he was as zealous for his religion as hearty in the cause of his king. He founded and endowed Rûg chapel.

On the arrival of Sir Thomas Myddelton at Wrexham after his success at Houlte, he wrote the following letter to Governor Salusbury, which, with the answer, is among the Salusbury M.S.S.

"The former friendship and familiarity w<sup>ch</sup> hath passed bewixt us doth not only invite but also engage me to use all possible



means not only to continue but alsoe to encrease the same, which on my parte being donne and offered, however things fall out hereafter, I am excusable before God and the world.—It hath pleased God by reason of all the distractions of the times, for the present to put us in a way of opposition one to the other; the causes being well understood, I doubt not but the issue would be a firmer union betwixt us than ever. Sir, through all opposition, God hath brought me with a considerable force to Wrexham, able both to defend myself and offend my foes; wherein I am by unquestionable power as well authorized to preserve the peace of this country from the violence of oppression used and exercised by the commanders of arrays, and others, against the parliament, as alsoe to protect and receive into grace and favour such as shall willingly come in and

submit to the obedience of king and parliament. This power, by God's grace, I will labour to put in execution, and this is the intente of my coming into these parts. Sir, I understand that for the present you are in armes in Denbigh castle, and governor thereof—and being formerly satisfied of your ingenious disposition, I cannot doubt but that your intentions and mine will agree, and on your part produce such accons as may conduce to your honour and safety, and the prosperity of these oppressed countryes; and therefore I doe hereby invite you and desire God that you may for your own good embrace it, that you would please to submit yourself to the power and obedience of the king and parliament, lay down your arms, and deliver up that castle to mee, or those that I shall appoynt, to be disposed of for their service and for the publick peace and safety of these parts; which if you

shall doe, you shall not only be protected in person and estate by mee and my power, but also you shall approve yourself, as formerly you have been, a patriot and preserver of your country, a lover of religion, and an instrument of the publick good ; and will be by the statè taken notice of as an acceptable service. Sir, now I have discharged my conscience, desiring your speedy consideration and speedy resolution, and soe desire God to direct you, and remayne

Your ould and true friend and kinsman,

THO. MIDDLETON."

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ANSWER TO SIR THO. MIDDLETON'S LETTER  
OR SUMMONS.

" In nomine Jesu.

" SIR,—I desire not to live longer than I approve myself true to my king and country, a true lover of the Protestant religion,

and that yealde chearful and hearty obedience to my king and parliament; and if the want of your obedience be your quarrell, or any part of the cause of your coming with force into these parts, it is an offence taken but not given. I am not soe jealous as to think you point att mee as one that did exercise violence or oppression in this country; I pray God wee doe not see those things now began to be exercised, instedd of being preserved from those. But to be playne—to betraye soe great a trust as the keeping of Denbigh castle, tho' upon never soe fayre pretences, may be acceptable to them that desire it, but in my opinion, in itself abominable; and must needs render him that shall doe it odious to God and all good men, and I will never account him my friend that should move mee to it. But I cannot say you doe soe, for I shall with all pleasure and wil-

lingnes yeald it up as you desire (that is) when I am commanded by my king and parliament. And for the discharge of that trust in the meane time, and for noe other cause I have armed myself, as well as God did enable me; and those arms (with God's leave) I shall beare and use for the service of my king and country, and not to exercise violence and oppression. This is my answeare to you, and, with God's healpe, the firm and constant resolution of him that is your kinsman, and would be your true friend, as far as truth and loyalty will give him leave,

“ WILLIAM SALESBURY.”

Denbigh castle, this 15<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup>, 1643.

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“ 22d Aug. 1645. From Chester (after the defeat at Rowton Moor) the king retreated to Denbigh castle, and having laid there two or three nights, returned to

Chirk castle, where he lay that night. The next morning he advanced from thence by Llansilin into Montgomeryshire, to London. After this overthrow (at Rowton) Sir William Vaughan, with an army of 2 or 3,000 men, out of Ludlow and other garrisons in the Marches of Wales, went through Montgomeryshire towards Denbigh castle, intending, with the addition of the forces of north Wales, to relieve Chester agayne, but Colonel Mytton hearing of his approche, drew up his forces towards him, and, neare Denbigh castle, gave him battel, wherein Sir William Vaughan was overthrown with all his army, whereof many weare slayne in the pursuit, whych continued six miles, even to Llangerniew."

—*William Morris.*

There is an error in the date of W. Morris's Account: for that of Mr. Peter Ro-

berts, public notary of St. Asaph, makes King Charles I. to have been at Denbigh castle, September 26th and 27th, which is nearly corroborated by the *Diary of Symonds*, a royalist, to be seen in the British Museum. His account of this particular is as follows: "Thursday the 25th Sept. about nine and ten in the morning, the king left Chester and went to Harding castle, governed by Sir William Neale, and stopd three hours, and went that night to Denbigh castle, which is governed by Mr. Salisbury, *repaired by him and his kindred at their own cost*—had his commission from the king two years since. Sir Marmaduke Langdale's rendezvous was early this morning within 2 miles of Holt castle.—Friday Sept. 26th, rested. I saw a rainbow within a mile of Denbigh at five in the morning." This phenomenon the good man probably interpreted fondly as

an omen of approaching peace and safety to the royal person, now secure from the general deluge of rebellion within this loyal fortress and arc of defence. The appearance had, probably, an happy effect in encouraging the cause of loyalty, and may have suggested the imagery in the poetry recorded a few pages forward. It may be acceptable to the reader to extract *Symond's Diary* more at large, as it traces the king's personal progress through this part of his kingdom. After a series of disaster to his cause subsequent to the battle of Naseby, in June this year, the king employed himself in raising contributions in the loyal associated counties, and arrived in N. Wales in Sept. The Diary informs us "Sunday 21st Sept. 1645, the king arrived at Llanfyllin, and proceeds on Monday the 22d to Chirk castle. There the king lay, Watts is governor—the king's guards



to Llangollen. Tuesday his majesty marched towards Chester. Sir W. Vaughan's brigade and General Gerard's horse marched before all night towards Holt castle, co. Denbigh, a garrison of the king's, commanded by Sir Richard Lloyd, where we have a pass of boats over the river. The king went into Chester, and lay at Sir Arthur Gamul's house. Wednesday Sept. 24th, Pointz's horse, contrary to expectation, were come between Nantwich and Chester to relieve those forces of their party that were afore Chester, and to fight the king, and were charged by Sir Marmaduke Langdale on Chester side of the river Dee not far from Beeston castle, beat in, and took some cornets, *but they beat us again for it*. About twelve of the clock, those horse which came with the king and 200 foot were drawn out of Chester; 900 prisoners of ours taken and carried to Nant-

wich, whereof about 20 gentlemen of the king's own troop." This is the celebrated defeat of Rowton heath; after which, the king retreats to Denbigh, as previously stated. "Saturday the 27th, was a general rendezvous three miles from Denbigh.\* News that Prince Maurice was coming with 1000 horse to us and was at Chirk castle. Sunday the 28th,—about ten o'clock afternoon the king marched through Ruthin, where is a large castle, well fortified, to Chirk castle—there Prince Maurice met us with his troops and those of Prince Rupert's horse that came from Bristol, Lucas's horse, &c. toto 6 or 700. Monday 29th, leaving Oswestry, (a garrison of the

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\* "Saturday 27th Sept. 1645. Be it remembered, that King Charles was the day and year above written, making his rendezvous in the parish of Cyffylliog, in a place there called Cenfeydd. The seige began at Ruthin in the 25th of Jun. 1646. The do. began at Denbigh 17th April, 1646." *Entry in the Register Book of Cyffylliog, near Ruthin.*

rebels) on the left hand, to Llandysilio and Llandrinio, co. Montgomery, where the army lay in the field—some chief in houses—thence to Bridgenorth and Litchfield—and on to Newark (not to London as W. Morris says.) Friday October the 17th, intelligence that the king had left Newark and gone towards Scotland.” The fatal event of this step is well known, and hence it appears, that N. Wales was the last portion of the kingdom which offered protection to its unhappy monarch.

Symonds, the writer of the Diary, was probably in the army of Sir W. Vaughan, which, as recorded in the last extract from W. Morris, was now advancing towards Denbigh. In confirmation of the defeat of Sir W. Vaughan, he proceeds, “October 26th, Sir W. Vaughan came to Chirk. *We* marched to Llannanis, Mr. Thelwall’s house,

(to Llanynys and probably to Plásy Ward,) Oct. 31st came intelligence to Denbigh to Sir W. Vaughan that the enemy, under the command of Mitton, was advanced to Ruthin, both horse and foot. Saturday at noon Nov. 1st, we had the alarm for they were at Whitchurch below the town. Their approach was handsomely disputed both by our horse and foot, above an hour, in the hedges and lane. Their number of foot, being 1500 at least, made ours retreat to the town which was not long disputed by reason of their forward advancing. Their horse were put to a disorderly retreat notwithstanding. Sir W. Vaughan drew many up upon a Green near two miles off, but could not be made to stand. A party of Arcall horse charged the pursuers and were seconded by part of Prince Maurice's lifeguard. The foot were let into the castle by the governor. The horse got to

Llanrwst that night, 12 miles distant (thro' Llangerniew, *W. Morris.*) Next morning dispersed to quarters. The governor of Denbigh wrote, that the enemy was in his sight above double our number.

“ FOR SIR WILLIAM VAUGHAN.

“ SIR,—I wish you to be as free from danger as I hope we are secure and in good condition here. On your foot being perceived under the castle wall I received them in tho' I conceived I had no need of them for the defence of this place ; yet having, I doubt not, provisions enough, their valour and good service withall meriting my compassion, I freely entertained them. I judge the enemy had a force that came the other way over the Green, equal in number or thereabouts, to what you fought with. Mitton and the foot I am informed quarter in the town

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and most of the horse in the country about :  
 God bless us all !

“ Your friend and servant,

“ WILLIAM SALISBURY.

“ Denbigh castle, 1st Nov. 1646—7 at night.

“ What you may resolve to take I leave to  
 your own discretion.”

“Tuesday Nov. 4th, returned a Trumpet  
 from Denbigh sent by Sir W. Vaughan,  
 and told that their rendezvous was at Nor-  
 thop the day before ; and this morning  
 being Tuesday came our foot to us out of  
 the castle to Llanrwst. A regiment of re-  
 formadoes against us in this business came  
 from London under Mitton's command.  
 Sir W. Vaughan's forces consisted of these

regiments and companies--Prince Maurice's life guard in part. Sir W. Vaughan's own regiment, with Arcall, Bridgenorth, Chirke, Col. Rutler of Huster that commanded the horse in Monmouthshire,—in all 300, Col. Werden Shaterley Lieut. Colonel, Col. Sandys of Worcester, Col. Randal Egerton Major Gen. to Gerard, and Col. Whitley, both 200, Col. Grudge's, regiment, Gen. Gerard, and Col. Davatrie's, 200, Lord Biron's regiment 100—horse toto 700. (qu. 800 ?)—Foot P. Maurice's firelocks in part, 150, Ludlow foot 90, Arcall Dragoons 20, Chirke firelocks 20, in all 280. Wednesday 5th, rested. Thursday 6th to St. George parish, the rest quartered thereabouts. Friday Nov. 7th was a general rendezvous on Denbigh Green. This night the head quarters was at Llanrhayader, Sir Evan Lloyd's house. Saturday marched to Llansaintffraid, same side

the water, in Merionethshire. Sunday to Llanfyllin, a town where the king lay about two months before as he marched from Hereford to Chester. All, both horse and foot lay there. Monday Nov. 10th, to Newtown.

“The country people of Merionethshire at this time beseiged Aberystwyth. When Sir W. Vaughan marched out of Denbighshire the enemy lay in this manner : three troops of horse and three troops of dragoons at Bretton, Welsh side, two miles from Chester. Col. Jones lay at Darleston (qu. Dodleston ?) with a regiment of 400 horse and another of 400 firelocks, called Jones’s regiment. They have a bridge over the Dee at Egleston. More lie at Wrexham. They drew out of those garrisons to fight us, viz. Wem, Oswestry, Red castle, Montgomery, Nottingham,



Derby, Stafford, Viner's troop fifty besides. Mitton brought 500 horse and foot : Sir W. Vaughan then marched to Leominster.

“March, 1646, Col. Whitely delivered the castle of Aberystwyth to the beseiger and his men—about 100 or more came to Harddlech and thence to Carnarvonshire and Llanrwst, and from thence they marched to Denbigh, and between Eglwys Wen and the towne, some horsemen of the castle met with some of the parliament forces and foughte with them, and hurte or killed one captaine and so returned. The parliament forces went towards Llandyrnog about the 17th of April. Shortly after, they lay before Denbigh, and had some loss of men several times.”—*W. Morris.*

The following particular is from an anonymous. "*Short Account of the Rebellion in North and South Wales.*"

"April 7,—1646. Before the brake of day about 120 men and 30 firelocks out of Denbigh castle fell upon Captain Richard Price's quarters within two miles of Ruthin, who being warned by his scouts, was in the field before they came and avoided the danger and gave an alarm to Ruthin;\* thereupon Col. Carter with the horse guards and Captain Simkies with the major-general's own troop, being then on guard at Ruthyn, drew oute and fell between them and Denbigh, and within two miles and a half of the garrison met with them and charged, killing 7 of them (as is sayde) upon the place, and in pursuit took

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\* Viz. to the parliament troops under General Mytton, who were then besieging Ruthin castle.

four captains, one lieutenant, four cornets, divers troopers, and about 40 horse, with the loss of one man on the parliament side. This account is corroborated, except as to the number killed, by the Salesbury Letters.

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“GENERAL MYTTON TO COL. SALESBURY.

“Ruthin, 7th Aprilis, 1646.

“Sir,—I have here inclosed a list of those that are brought prisoners here ; how many are thyne I doe not yet know, but I am heartily sorry things doe grow soe high between us, and so are your friends at London. Sir, I beeseich you remember your country, yourself, and your posterity, and goe on no further in this way, to the undoing of the first and extreme hazarding of the others. If you please to make use of me, as an instrument to make your peace

with the parliament, rest assured you shall engage the best endeavours of him that will shew himself to be

“ Your ould friend and humble servant,

“ THO. MYTTON.

“ Credit me, the king hath noe army left him in the field in any place in the kingdom.”

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COLONEL SALESBURY IN ANSWER.

“ Worthy Sir,—I acknowledge myself much obliged unto you for your kind expressions in your letter sent by my Drum, which I hope to requite in a most reall way before I die. Sir, I have been and am daily robbed and spoiled, contrary to the law of God and this kingdom for noe other offence that I know but for my loyalty to my king. The parliament (if I may soe call it) I have noe ways offended, unless (as before) in being loyalty to my king, in ob-

serving his commands, as well by commission under his hand and seale as also by word from his own mouthe, for the keeping of this place, his Majestie's own house ; which (without regard to my own life, lands, or posterity) with God's assistance, I will endeavour to make good for him to my last gaspe, soe I rest your poore kinsman, and ould play fellow to serve you,

“ WILLIAM SALESBURY.

“ Denbigh castle, this 8th day of April, 1646.

“ I take the king's own person for a sufficient army, and what armies alsoe be in England should of right bee his. Upon my credit, noe more of this place but one man killed, and that, (as they say) after quarter given—one other's pate cutt slightly. Too much security hath lost many a fayre game at tennis, as you know : and soe fared it with our men last day.”

When so honourable a man as Col. Salisbury asserts, "upon his credit," that no more than one man was killed, we should feel disposed to believe him, though other authentic accounts of the affair agree with the numbers of the author of "*The Short Account*," &c. previously given. A printed account in the British Museum, entitled "*Three Victories in Wales*," published by order of parliament, April 4th, 1646, contains, together with the Articles of Capitulation of Ruthin castle, an account of this engagement, in two separate letters to Gen. Mytton, from Major Edward Moore and Thomas Brooke his secretary. . Each gives the same account. The former informs us in a letter from Ruthin, 8th April, 1646, "Upon Tuesday last, at night, the enemy from Denbigh fell upon part of our quarters, but took neither horse nor men, which gave us an alarm here ; whereupon a party

of our horse went out and fell between them and home, and meeting them neare Denbigh, took Captain Winne, Captain H. Morris, Captain Morgan (Brook calls him of Walgrave; qu. of Gwylgre, now Golden Grove?) and Captaine Pickering, one lieutenant, and two cornets, with some gentlemen of this county, and killed seven. —Taken by Colonel Mitton's forces near Denbigh,

“Captaine Wynne, Cap. Hugh Morris, Cap. Morgan, Cap. Pickering, one serjeant, divers gent” and other souldiers, divers armes, seven slaine upon the place, 40 horse taken.”

In the same Account (“Three Victories”) is also a letter from Gen. Mytton to Speaker Lenthal, announcing the surrender of Ruthin castle, which also speaks of this victory as follows: “Yesterday (April 7th) before the break of day a party of the enemy out of Denbigh castle, being about sixscore, and

thirty mounted firelocks, fell upon Captaine Richard Price's quarters, within two miles of this town, but he was vigilant and his scouts performed their duty so well that they were drawn into the field before they came upon them, which gave him opportunity to avoid them and causing the alarm to this town. And thereupon Colonel Carter with a standing horse guard, which we are fain to keep in the field constantly to secure our out-quarters, and Captain Simkies with my own troop, which were then upon the guard in this town, drew out and fell between them and Denbigh, and within half a mile of their garrison met with them and charged them so gallantly that they broke in upon them, killed 7 of them (*as is said*) upon the place, and in the pursuit took 4 captains, 1 lieutenant, 2 cornets, divers troopers, and about 40 horse, with the losse of one man of our side.



“ 1646, April 12th, Ruthin castle was surrendered to the parliament party and a strong seige lay'd to Denbigh castle.”—*W. Morris.*

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GENERAL MYTTON'S SUMMONS TO  
DENBIGH CASTLE.

“ Sir,—I can noe less than put you in mind of the losse of christian blood, the undoing of this country, and the retarding of the work of reformation in these parts (soe happily by God's blessing) not only began, but in great measure perfected in most parts of this kingdome, that you soe much cause, and will be deeply guilty of, if you persiste in your way, of your forcibly keeping this castle of Denbigh from being reduced to the obedience of the king and parliament, having no hopes of reliefe.—I doe therefore hereby summon you to deliver into my hands the castle of Denbigh

for the use of the king and parliament, upon Monday next, by nine of the clocke in the morninge; assuring you that you may have better conditions both for your-selfe and the rest of the castle with you, if you refuse not this my first summons, then eyther you or they can expect hereafter if you doe refuse it, and thereby cause mee to desire the parliament that the whoall charge of this seige may for the saving of this poor exhausted countrey from ruyne bee mantayned out of your and there estates, which will certainly be prosecuted by him who rather desires to bee unto you, as heretofore,

“ Your ould friend and servant,

“ THO. MYTTON.

“ Denbigh town, 17th April, 1646.

“ I expect your answer by 9 of the clocke too-morrow morning.”

## COLONEL SALESBURY's ANSWER.

“ In nomine Jesu.

“ 18th Aprilis, 1646.

“ I am sorry to see the ruine of my in'ocent native countrey, for there loyallty to there king, and sensible of the effusion of christian blood, but upon whose account that which is, or shall be spilt in your attempt to force this castle from mee, being our king's own house—entrusted to mee, unsought, both by his Majestie's commission and verbal com'and, I will leave it to the Highest Judge;—and, in answere to your summons, I will say no more then that, with God's assistance, I doe resolve to make good this place till I receive our king's com'and and warrant of my discharge—to whome, under God, wee all are tyed by common allegiance; and, when I shall have need of relief, I shall undoubtedly

expect it from my merciful God, who knows the justness of my cause, and soe rest

“ Your ould friend and servant,

“ WILLIAM SALESBURY.”

The stout and loyal governor was assailed on one hand by entreaties to submit, and on the other by exhortations to hold out, as the two following productions from the same M.S.S. evince.

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A Paper endorsed “THE BUMKIN’S PETITION.”

“ Gentlemen,—We on beehalfe of our selves and our poor and wasted countrey are enjoyned (by as many of the inhabitants thereof as are met here this day) to present unto you our deplorable condition. Having such strong confidence in your publicke affec’on towards us, that wee cannot bee-lieve you delight in our ruine ; it is a com-

mon and true saying, that the preservation of the people is the supreame law ; and as you allways assirdid yóur engadgements to bee in order to that law, you cannot say but youre country's compliance with you hath bin very free, and their trust in you very greate. If by detayning this castle from the parliament's possession, you engadge the forces that are against you to lye upon us, and expose soe much of our substance, as was comitted to your custody, to be made a prize and a pray for the souldiers, you recede from those principles that supreame rule points at, and from the practice of other gentlemen, engaged with you in this unhappy difference, entrusted with places of great comande and of whose valour and resolution to promote that service they have given ample testimonys. There readiness to deny themselves, and preserve their country by a timely submission and sur-

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render those garrisons that were in there possession, when it pleased God to withdraw from them all vissible means of reliefe, must needs embalme theire memory to posterity ; the fruits of whose wisdom in that acte the countreys of South Wales, Devonshire, and Cornwall have seasonably received ; and it is the earnest expectation of our deare native countrey that you will noe longer occasion the continuance of these heavy and insupportable pressures upon us ; and in thankfullness of your tenderness of us, wee shall humbly supplicate the honourable houses of parliament to receave your submission upon such moderate tearmes as shall bee consistent with your abilities to undergoe. If your countrey's present sufferings, and approaching ruine, be not by you prevented, having now in your hands means to redresse them, you will give unto many thousand innocent and helplesse

people cause to have you in bitter remembrance, as long as your name or interest in this countrey shall remayne amongst us ; excuse our playness with you, w'ch proceeds from the weight and smart of our greivances ; and take our desires into your deepe and serious consideration.

“ In assurance whereof, wee rest,

“ Gentlemen,

“ Your humble Servants.”

“ The effect of this I hartly wish it may take ; for the avoyding of spilling christian blood, and the ruyne of many poor, and rich, by continuance of a seage for reduction of that castle.

“ SYMON THELWALL.”

[This petition is also signed by forty-seven persons.]

## COLONEL SALESBURY'S ANSWER.

“ In nomine Jesu.

“ Cosin Thelwall,—and the rest of the subscribers to the letter sent to this castle the 8th of this instant May.—How I became interested in this place and command is very well knowne to the best of you ; and with what moderation I have since managed it doth clerely appeare by the exhausting of my own estate for the supply of this castle, (but what hath bin plundered from mee by the parliament forces) to avoyde any pressure upon the country; who cannot in justice complayne, if the practice of other garrisons be impartially looked upon ; and if by the advance of this force, your condition be rendered so deplorable as you mention, I am confident I shall stand acquitted before God, and every good man ; seeing all I do is in mayntenance of my alliegence and



in pursuance of the trust reposed in mee by **MY KING**, (whom you doe not vouchcafe to take notice of,) which in my understanding I cannot bee absolved from by that principle of law you soe much insist on, since the attayning of any end (tho' never soe specious) cannot be warranted by indirect means; neyther can I discern how the countrey can be preserved, or your charge lessened by the surrender of this castle; since others of noe lesse strength and consequence are continued in our king's obedience and comand; will probably engage the same force, which will be mentayned by the same means; and since the scope of your desires proceed from your private intèrests, give me leave to take equal care of my loyallty, and reputation; all which may be preserved by your mediation with the parliament, or commander in chiefe, this force now before this castle may bee

withdrawn from this countrey ; I shall then undertake this castle shall be no further charge to you. And to conclude with your bitter pill ; I will not deny, but as the most savoury meate tastes bitter to a distempered pallate, so my faythfullness to his Majestie's service may seeme bitter to those that are redy to fall from their allegiance, which if you, and others had not done, this countrey and other parts of the kingdome, had not bin in this misserable condition they now are in ; neyther had there bin any occasion of this kind of entercourse beetweene you and your kindsman

“ And the king's loyall subject

“ WILLIAM SALISBURY.

“ Denbigh castle, this 16th Maii, 1646.”

On the other hand, his stout resolution to adhere to loyalty was encouraged, as before observed, by the following lines sent to Colonel Salusbury at the time.

# “DENBIGH CASTLE.

“That vast dominion, t’ which were once assigned  
 Noe bounds, but Neptune’s waves, is now confined  
 Within thy walls \* (brave fortress) which must bee  
 Well stiled the Palace of Dame Loyalltie.  
 And whilst wee in thy armes are thus comprised,  
 Charles has a kingdome still,—epitomised—  
 A scantling empire,—which our pious hope  
 Divines shall yet enjoy that spacious scope  
 It lately shin’d in ;—tho’ inforc’d awhile  
 To suffer thralldome in this narrow isle,  
 Surrounded closely with a narrow sea  
 Of black Rebellion ; which may ebbe away  
 Like th’ universall deluge ;—some blest dove  
 May bring us joyfull tidings from above.  
 ’T were sinne to doubt it ;—was it ever knowne  
 That an eclipse long rul’d the horrison ?  
 ’T were madnesse sure, when Phœbe’s in the waine  
 To say shee never would increase againe.  
 If soe, hould out (brave Denbigh) that just fame,  
 That after-times may historize thy name ;  
 When this thy glorious Epithit shall bee,  
 DENBIGH, that saved ENGLAND’s MONARCHIE.”

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\* This is literally true, for, as Pennant observes, the first castle that surrendered in N. Wales held out above two months longer than the last English castle. The power of the monarch was therefore nearly confined to this fortress.

The parliament cause being now triumphant, Carnarvon and Beaumaris castles having opened their gates, Gen. Mytton renewed his persuasion by letter, as follows: (Salesbury M. S.)

(“ Lleweny, 24th June, 1646.)

“ Sir,—I persuade myself you cannot be ignorant how the affaires of this kingdome stand at this time in generall, and in particular of North Wales ; that the towne and castle of Carnarvon is surrendered for the use of the parliament, as likewise the castle of Beaumarish, and the whole island of Anglisey, submitted thereunto ; soe that your houlding the castle of Denbigh from its due obedience (having no hope of releife) can produce noe other probable effect than the ruine of your country, which heretofore you have beene accounted so good a patriot that you have been very tender of.—For the

prevention whereof, and the shedding of christian blood, wishing you not to forget yourself and estate, which I do assure you, if you persist but a few days more, in the way you are in, will be put to the uttermost hazard.—I doe hereby summon you once more to deliver into my hands the castle of Denbigh, for the use of the king and parliament.—And that you may seriously consider of it, I do allow you time till Saturday noone, to returne, (and then I expect) your answer

“ Your servant,

“ THO. MYTTON.”

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AN ANSWER TO MYTTON'S SECOND SUMONS.

“ In nomine Jesu.

“ Sir,—In answer to your letter of the 24th of June last, it cannot bee (being soe

closely besieged) that I should bee altogether ignorant of the affayers of this kingdom in general, much more in the particulars, contrary to what you suppose. What the castle and town of Carnarvon, the castle of Beawmarish, with the whole Island of Anglisea have done doth noething concern me; that must lye upon there accomp who were therein entrusted by our king;—now for the houlding this castle, I doe hold it in its proper and due obedience to our king; and when I have use of reliefe (as I formerly wrote) I am confident my good God will assuredly send it mee, who hitherto hath mercifully protected me. As for the ruine of this innocent countrey, I am hartily sorry, that soe noble a gentleman, soe generally beeloved, as yourselfe, of soe antient, and soe worthey a stocke, should bee made the prime actor therein; contrary to the lawes of God, and the fundamentall

lawes of this kingdome ; but for further prevention of the losse of innocent christian blood (of which I am very sensible) doe you withdraw your forces from before this castle and countrey ; I shall give you good assurance, that this garrison shall neyther bee hurtful nor burthensome to the countrey ; desiring your consent, that I may send two gentlemen to our king (whoe entrusted mee) to bee assured of his pleasure ;\* till when, with God's leave, I shall cherefully runne the extreamest hazards of war, as shall please God ; lastly for your summons ;—when I see the aucturity you have from our king, and his parliament, commanding mee to deliver this place to your hands, I shall with God's helpe, returne

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\* King Charles the I. had issued a proclamation for delivering up every castle in England and Wales on fair and honourable terms. This proclamation was issued only in this month of June, so that Col. Salesbury was probably ignorant of it.

you a speedy, honest, and playne answer,  
till then,

“ Your wellwishing servant,

“ WILLIAM SALESBURY.

“ What ruine shall befall this countrey,  
I refer it to the Supreme Judge from whome  
noe secritts are hid, soe I rest, and so I am.  
—There is a God that judgeth the earth.”



“ TO THE GOVERNOR OF DENBIGH.

“ Sir,—I can doe noe less than give you  
a true sight of the condition of the king-  
dome in generall, and what North Wales  
is like to come to, in perticular ; to which  
end I have sent you both the printed, and  
my private intelligence, which you may be  
assured are both really true and intended.  
I hope you will not make your countrey so  
miserable, in persisting any longer in hould-



ing out this castle, which I have divers times written unto you, can produce noe other probable effect. I must desire your speedy answer, whither you will treat with mee for the delivery of it, or noe; my messenger being ready to go to the parliament in answer to what is desired in the letter.

“ Your servant,

“ THO. MYTTON.

“ Denbigh Aug. 30th, 1646.

“ I desire your particular answer, to-morrow morning between 8 and 9 of the clocke.”

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FOR GENERAL MYTTON, THIS PRESENT.

“ In nomine Jesu.

“ Sir,—I shall ever acknowledge your curtesies, tho' unable to requite.—For the

condition of our king and his kingdomes, if God have soe disposed, blessed be his name and welcome bee his will. In my answere to your second summons I desired your consent to send a gentleman or two to our king, to knowe his pleasure ; but I received noe answere from you therein as yeat ; the same desire I doe now second, being confident I shall speed, as others, who had the like granted from you ; expecting your answere,

“ I rest, your servant,

“ WILLIAM SALESBURY.

“ Sir,—I doe returne, per this Drume, Sir John Trevour’s Letter and the Diurnall.

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FOR THE GOVERNOR OF DENBIGH  
CASTLE.

“ Sir,—I receaved yours by your Drume, wherein you desire to send to the king ; I

doe assure you, above three months since I received command from the parliament not to suffer any, upon any pretence whatsoever, to goe unto the king, which I have exactly performed. The same that you desire was likewise proposed unto Sir Thomas Ffayrfax, by several garrisons of Oxford, Worcester, Wallingford, Pendennis, Ragland, and divers others, unto whome it was denied, and is not in my power to grant you.—Wherefore in regard I am to returne an account of the condition of North Wales with all speede to the parliament, I desire your positive answer by 3 this afternoon.

“ Your servant,

“ THO. MYTTON.

“ Denbigh, 31st August, 1646.”

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“ In nomine Jesu.

“ Sir,—The coming of more forces to besiege this place will noe way move my resolution; who preferre noe ende to the acquitting of myself like an honest man in that trust which my king hath committed to mee, which I am fully satisfied can never be done before my king receave an accompt of my proceedings, (and without that, to deale freely with you) I have such an engagement upon mee, that I will not entertayne any overture of this nature;—and since I must beeleeve that your hands are tyed up, yeat I am so much concerned in this business, that I must apply myself to other means in that perticular for my satisfaction; which will take up some time; and if I must quit the place, I professe, I had rather you had the honour of it, than any other person in England, of your party; tho’ give me leave to tell you, that the addition of a new

force, bee the consequence what it will,  
will but add to my honour, which is all I  
have now left to care for.

“ I remayne your servant,

“ WILLIAM SALESBURY.

“ Ult. Augti, 1646.”

Another printed account in the British Museum entitled, “ *An Exact Relation of the whole of gallant Col. Mytton in N. Wales, as is assured under the hands of severall Commanders of Note, &c.*” observes, “ We have closely beseiged Holt castle, Denbigh, Carnarvon, and Flynt, all places of exceeding great strength; our forces are so many that all the countries under our command will hardly afford us provision. We are put to use our utmost skill to get maintenance this way, then you may judge how hard it is with us for want of pay, with-

out which our souldiers will not continue patiently to goe on in their hard and difficult duty that hitherto they have undergone, harder then which, we dare boldly say, hath not been in any place since these wars, and besides many of our souldiers are auxiliaries from Lancashire, who are most unreasonable men if they are disappointed of their pay. . . . .

Each seidges have made works suitable to the condition of the places, our hopes must be of starving, not storming any of them. Denbigh we laid seidge too, soone as wee took Ruthin, which now is 6 weeks since, its governor is a verie wilfull man, he hath verie nigh five hundred able fighting men in it, it hath in its situation all the advantages for strength that any castle can have, there are many Gentry in it and some riches in it, but it would do well that

as they are notoriously rectorie, so they may be made notoriously exemplary by the justice of the parliament upon them and their estates according to their demerits; the countries have improved their interests and many other ways have bin used but all ineffectual, their hearts are as hard as the very foundation of the castle itself, being an unpierceable rock, there are mounts raised round about it and approaches for battering of a tower called the Goblins' Tower, hoping thereby to deprive them of the benefit of a well in that tower, which can we attaine, we may then soon expect the castle, thro' want of water, they having but one well more which is usually, as is reported, dry in June or July every summer.——

Sir, you may perceiue we neither have bin or are idle, we hope the Lord will continue to bless our endeavours, for which we begge

your prayers. We rest your assured friends  
and Servants,

“ RICHARD PRICE, THOMAS MASON,  
GEORGE TWISTETON. ”

Undated, but, 6 weeks after surrender  
of Ruthin, viz. end of May, 1646.

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Feeling at length how unavailing was  
his loyal constancy, Governor Salusbury  
addressed his fallen sovereign in the fol-  
lowing letter.

“ In nomine Jesu.

“ MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

“ I have presumed to make my humble  
address to you by this gentleman, Mr. Eu-  
bull Thelwall, to let your Majesty under-  
stand that this castle hath now for severall  
months byne closely beseiged ; what matter  
of action hath in that time happen'd, I.



humbly refere your Majesty to his relation,  
wherein I do beseech your Majesty to give  
him credit; praying for your Majesty's  
health and happiness,

" I remayne,

" Your Majestie's loyall subject,

" WILLIAM SALISBURY."\*



"Newcastle, the 13th of September.

" CORONELL SALISBURY,

" I hartely thank you for your loyall constancie, and assure you, that whensoever it shall please God to enable me to show my thankfullness to my friends, I will particu-

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\* In taking our leave of Governor Salisbury, we must observe, that he seems to have been by no means a blind adherent to his Royal Master. Lloyd, the Author of "*The Memoires*," who was contemporary with the loyal persons he describes, says of William Salisbury, " He spake so plainly to his Majesty (when the king was at Denbigh castle, perhaps) for two hours in private, that the good king said, " never did prince hear so much truth at once."

larly remember you. As for your answer, I refer you to thease messengers, to whom I have clearly declared my minde; commend me to all my friends,

“ So I rest,

“ Your most assured friend,

“ CHARLES R.”

The King declared his mind in the following publick document, sent by the same messengers as the preceding.

TO OUR TRUSTY, AND WELL-BELOVED COLONEL  
WILLIAM SALESBURY, GOVERNOR OF THE  
CASTLE OF DENBIGH, IN WALES.

“ CHARLES R.

“ Whereas, Wee have resolved to comply with the desires of our parliament in every thing which may bee for the good of our subjects, and leave noe means unassayed for removing all difference betwixt us—therefore wee have thought fitt, the more

to evidence the reality of our intentions of sittling a happy and firm peace, to authorize you upon honourable conditions, to quit, and surrender the castle of Denbigh, entrusted to you by us, and to disband all the forces under your commands; for which your soe doing this shall bee your warrant. Given at Newcastle, the 14th of Sept. 1646."

The sad account, which Mr. Thelwall was charged to deliver by word of mouth, is thus revealed in the Memoranda of Wm. Morris, 28th Sept. 1646. "Mr. William Salusbury of Rûg, after he hadd sente to the king to shew in what case the countrey stood, and what misery they suffered by reason of the leaguer, and also how his souldiers in the castle were infected with divers diseases, was commanded by the king, and delivered up the castle to them upon the 26th Oct." The terms of capitula-

tion were honourable both to the victor and to the vanquished. They are given at large in the Appendix to Pennant's Tour. The garrison marched out, as stipulated in the articles, with "colours flying, drums beating, matches light at both ends, bullet in the mouth, every souldier with 12 chardges of powder, match and bullet proportionable, with bag and baggage,&c." in short, bearing no resemblance to the vanquished.

After the articles were signed, it is said the noble blue stocking Hero mounted the tower above the Goblin Well, and threw down the key of the castle, making use of a coarse proverb, "*Chwi biau'r byd, &c.*" after which he retired to a farm house of his own, called Bodtegyrn, in the parish of Llanfihangel Glyn Myfyr. His Royal Master's promise of remembering his brave and devoted subject was performed to the best of his power,

tho' not as such extraordinary merit would have been rewarded on a favourable issue to the royal cause. The noble descendant of *Hosanna gleision* and inheritor of Bachymbyd and other estates, in an interesting work on the annals of his own ancient house, which he lately printed at his private press, and distributed among his friends, observes, that "when Sir Walter Bagot married the heiress of Salusbury, he became possessed of an ancient cabinet, containing the letters (here quoted, by the permission of their owner,) together with other interesting and valuable relics. Among the latter is a scull cap, most beautifully embroidered on crimson silk, constantly worn by Charles the First, and sent, before his death, to his highly esteemed friend and faithful servant Colonel Salusbury, as the only token of remembrance he had in his power to bestow."

What families of distinction in the neighbourhood suffered in this memorable siege are not entirely known, save that which is mentioned in the following extract from M. S.S. Memoranda in the possession of the heir of Llwyn. "Edward Wynn, 4th son of Edward Wynn the only son of Maurice Wynn of Gwydir and Catherine of Beren, by Blanch his wife, daughter of John Vychan of Blaen y Cwm, was captain of a company of foot in Denbigh castle in the service of Charles the First, was wounded in a sally made by the said garrison against the besiegers under Sir John Carter, and in three days after died of his wounds, and was interred with military honours at Llanrhaidr,\* being conducted by a part of the garrison as far as Ystrad Bridge, where he had

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\* His grave, with an inscription, is to be seen in this church yard, at the east end of it, railed in, with many others of the same family.

three vollies, thence taken by a party of the Oliverians, who likewise conducted him to his grave after the same manner.\*

The fall of this castle by no means fulfilled the promise of restoring peace and happiness to the country. Heavy contributions were levied on the inhabitants to support the parliament forces, and yet these were inadequate to their purpose, if indeed they ever reached their destination. *W. Morris* proceeds to inform us as follows: "About the 24th of March, 1646—7, the souldiers in Denbighshire, did stir a mutiny, and coming to Wrexham, they layde holde on Colonel Jones, treasurer of the parliament, and others of the comittee, impri-

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\* Such was the distress of the country during the siege, that a gallon of butter sold for 20 shillings. The Market was kept at the elm tree, near Lady Salusbury's House.—Mem. of Mr. Peter Roberts, Notary P. of St. Asaph, Temp. Ch. 1st.

soned them, demanding their arrears, and a just accounte of the money paid to them by the county. Gen. Mytton, being that morning come to towne, hadd some intelligence, and fled towards Houlte castle to Col. Pope,—the souldiers firing after him.” The sums paid by the county towards the parliament cause were considerable, according to the same Memoranda, which record, “ April 1647, We of the county payde monthly contribution £. 260, and in May following, we payde another contribution contrary to General Mytton’s promise. We payde alsoe our part of £.1200 for dispan-dinge of souldiers, and were to give free quarters to the horse souldiers.”

The spirit which actuated the late governor was still alive in the minds of a few for some time after, as W. Morris, in the following particulars, which are the last he



has preserved relating to this subject, observes: "1648, About the end of June, Mr. Doulbein and Mr. Chambers of Denbigh hadd a design to take the castle of Denbige; they scaled it in the night, and aboute 60 men got into ulter-ward, but they were discovered, and some of them taken; they both plundered, but escaped, as is said."

"July. In this monthe aboute the 16th, Dolbein and Chambers with their companie came before Denbigh castle, and, in a bravado, discharged their pistols and wente away."

A more particular History of this design is to be seen in the British Museum, in a printed account, entitled, "*Denbigh Castle surprized for the King, by 60 Cavaliers, &c.*" London, printed for the general

satisfaction of all moderate men, 1646;" viz. A letter from Chester of the designe about surprizing of Denbigh castle for the king.

"NOBLE SIR,

"We finde the king's party still very active in these parts; those in Anglesey that revolted will not accept of the indemnity, but resolve to keep the island for the king. Sir John Owen is acting in Denbigh castle, where with his confederates, the castle was very neare being surprized. On Monday night last, the captaine of the guard being gone to bed, they began to act their design. And there was engaged in this business for surprize of Denbigh castle (where Sir John Owen is prisoner) a corporall and a sentinell belonging to the castle, of the parliament souldiers, who had (it seems) been wrought upon by those who

carried on the design, to whom large promises were made. These men we have discovered, besides some others whom we cannot yet find out, to have been corrupted by Serjeant-major Dolton, Captain Cutler, Captain Parry, Captain Charles Chambers,\* and some others, who were the chief actors in this plot. There was a party of the cavalliers that came that night with scaling ladders, who came privily to the walls without giving any alarm at all, the corporall and the two sentinells of the guard being privy to their design and confederacy. And about some 60 of the cavalliers had scaled the walls, and had got over without any opposition at all, and were

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\* Captain Chambers was probably a member of the ancient family of that name of Plâs Chambres, near Denbigh. The family derived its name from being chamberlains to the earl of Lincoln. Pennant speaks of a grant from Henry de Lacy to John de la Chambre, Camerario.

As to the possession of its site and its manorial rights, they continue in the crown, and the latter are peaceably administered by a steward appointed by the same.\* On the accession of William and Mary, this lordship was granted to that king's particular friend the earl of Portland, who seems to have been disposed to try the extent of his rights with the tenants of the lordship. This caused warm debates in parliament on resisting these claims, the particulars of which may be read in Rapin and other English historians. In fine the grant was withdrawn in order to allay the ferment, and, in the present state of moderation and freedom, no future interference with the long enjoyed rights of the tenants

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\* What the rights of the lordship were in remote times might be discovered by any one who could decipher an ancient document in the British Museum, entitled, "*Extenta Castri et honoris de Denbigh facta per Hugonem de Becele,*" 8 Edw. III. (1334) Harl. Miscel. 3632. Mr. Gough says, "Mr. J. Rawlinson had a fine copy of this, formerly Dudley earl of Leicester."

is likely to recur. Since that struggle, the rights of the crown seem rather to have been encroached upon than advanced, to judge from the numerous new, but humble habitations, which crowd the castle precincts, not certainly to its ornament. Of these a very recent erection, which affects the departed gothick grandeur of the castle, cannot fail of attracting notice. It rears its embattled front on the west side of the Caledfryn, and, if in want of a name, may be called the New Burgess Tower. But it will never witness the alarms of war which at times have shook its ancient relative below. All is now peace and security on this once frowning hill. Where once the cannon balls of Mytton were answered by those of the Blue Stocking Hero, peaceful burgesses play at bowls or nine pins, an emblem and epitomy of the greater game where castles are as such.

Before closing this account of its castle, it may be interesting to notice a curious occurrence, that took place at Denbigh, as given in a letter to Doctor Hans Sloane, secretary to the royal society, to be seen in the transactions of that institution, as follows: " Upon Tuesday, the 6th of July, 1706, about 8 in the morning, it began to rain at Denbigh, but not very violently till about 3 or 4 in the morning upon Wednesday, attended with a terrible noise like thunder. Upon Tuesday the wind blew S. W. but on Wednesday it came to the N. W. Rivers in Denbighshire, Flintshire, and Merionethshire overflowed, carrying away hay, and spoiling corn, and breaking bridges, the arches being choaked with the hay. Large trees were unrooted and swept away. Quillets by the River Elwy covered with stones and gravel, so that the owners could not discover their landmarks, and were not worth clearing. It is affirm-

ed by many, not so much the effect of the rain as of the innumerable springs that broke out where never were any before. In the town of Denbigh, a great many broke out in the houses and stables, especially in that part which lies next the castle, on the north side of it, some of which broke out with a great deal of violence and in such great quantity, that, it is affirmed by many men of the town, of these new springs which flowed out of the stables of the three noted Inns, viz. the Bull, Cross keys, and Boars' heads, some were sufficient to turn any corn mill. A great many springs broke out of Park Snodiog, a rocky hill a small distance north of Denbigh, and flowed plentiful for 9 or 10 days, and gave water to the cattle. Holes and trenches were cut in the highways, adjoining the river Elwy."

The consequence which Denbigh would have lost on the demolition of its magnificent

castle has been preserved by the legislation which raised it to the rank of a county town, and the honour of chief member of the contributory boroughs in the return of a representative to parliament. In respect to the latter, its exemption from any overpowering influence has enabled it to carry itself higher, and follow its own unfettered choice, more than its allied sisters.

In the exercise of this privilege, the town of Denbigh will recollect the devoted loyalty which so brightly shone on the departing splendor of its castle,—mindful too of the improved blessing which England's better defined and limited constitution has since become, to adopt the concluding lines of the effusion quoted some pages back,

**" This her glorious Epithit shall be  
DENBIGH, that favours ENGLAND'S MONARCHIE."**



## APPENDIX.

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THIS account of Denbigh castle and its town, could not assume to be complete without noticing its public Institutions as they exist at present. The town charter of incorporation has already been noticed ; but, it should have been added, that the corporate body consists of, and is entitled, “ the Aldermen, Bailiffs, and Burgesses of the Borough of Denbigh.” The liberties of the borough extend on every side one mile and a half from the high cross standing in the market place. It is ordained, that there be a common seal for transacting any causes or business, and, besides the members before mentioned, that there be two Coroners and twenty-five of the better sort and best reputed of the burgesses to be Capital Burgesses and Counsellors of the said borough. There are two serjeants at mace, or mace-bearers, for the execution of processes and mandates issuing out of the court of the borough ;—also a Recorder, appointed by the aldermen, bailiffs, and capital burgesses, who also appoint constables, leave-lookers, and other inferior officers. The aldermen are justices within their liberties, from which the authority of the county justices is excluded. They hold quarter sessions of the peace, at which the resident burgesses serve on the juries.

There is also a court of record held by the bailiffs, or one of them, every other Friday in the year, in which are held all manner of pleas, actions, suits, demands of all sorts of transgressions, *vi et armis*, or otherwise, and also all manner of debts, accounts, &c. &c.

The aldermen and bailiffs are commissioners of array.

The resident burgesses are voters for the member of parliament, of whom the bailiffs are the returning officers. The revenues of the corporation consist of lands on Denbigh Green under the Henllan Inclosure Act, in compensation for grant of right of common on Llewellyn forest, several houses and plots of land in Denbigh, the tolls arising from the market, &c.

There is a Free School in Denbigh, called the Blue Coat School, founded by Mrs. Oldfield, by her will dated March 10th, 1714, the revenues of which arise from lands in the parish of Llanrhaidr in Cismereb, now worth about £80 per annum. This original endowment was augmented by the will of Mr. Morgan Evans, who left £200 bank stock to the charity, which, by good stewardship, is now increased, and the school is in the receipt of more than £23 per annum interest of money, besides its rents in land. The late Richard Willding, Esq. of Llanrhaidr, augmented the latter by a quillet of land near Abergele, of the value of about ten shillings per

annum. With these funds from twenty to twenty-five boys, the sons of labouring men or poor tradesmen of the borough, are clothed and instructed, according to the will of the worthy foundress.

A Charity School, in connection with the National Society, is also established in this town, in which from 200 to 250 poor children, boys and girls, in nearly equal proportions, receive gratuitous instruction. The subscriptions to this Institution in the year 1817, soon after its commencement, amounted to upwards of £. 100 per annum. At that period the late worthy and beneficent Rector the Rev. W. Cleaver, son of the late Lord Bishop of St. Asaph, printed an account of these Schools, from which the present is extracted.

But the charitable Institution which still more than the foregoing does honour to the town of Denbigh and to its original promoters, whose names deserve to be recorded, (viz. George Cumming, Esq. M. D. Doctor Cleaver, Lord Bishop of St. Asaph, R. M. Biddulph, Esq. M. P. for the boroughs, the Rev. Roger Clough, Canon of St. Asaph, and the Rev. Thomas Clough, late Rector of Denbigh,) is its "DISPENSARY, OR ASYLUM FOR THE RECOVERY OF HEALTH," for an Account of which, the writer is indebted to Richard Phillips Jones, Esq. M. D. its present able and zealous Physician.



## DENBIGHSHIRE GENERAL DISPENSARY

AND

ASYLUM FOR THE RECOVERY OF HEALTH.

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*Under the Patronage of*

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF SUSSEX.

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**T**HIS excellent and useful Charity was instituted in November, 1807, for the relief of the sick and diseased poor, the gratuitous supply of trusses, and vaccine inoculation. From its first report we learn, that in the short period of fifteen months, not only the difficulties inseparable from the nature of a new establishment had been overcome, but a valuable extension of its plan and benefits had taken place.

The Committee, deeply sensible of the moral as well as physical good resulting from so benevolent an Institution, contemplated with pleasure its beneficial effects in the country, as tending to dis-

seminate rational means of curing and alleviating disease, and protecting the public from a ruinous and fatal confidence, so common in the delusive arts of empirics.

In the first year of its operations 954 poor people received medical aid, among whom 17 \* were supplied gratuitously with trusses, and 212 vaccinated.

The prejudices of the poor are often, unhappily, strong, and sometimes even violent, but the kind and humane treatment they at all times experienced, ensured their confidence, and made them grateful for the benefits they received. Being the only Institution of its kind in North Wales, it became the resort of numerous applicants from distant counties, afflicted with such diseases as could not be cured by simply dispensing medicine, and some that required the performance of certain surgical operations. The want of cleanliness, ventilation, and other necessary comforts for the sick, in the wretched habitations of the poor, rendered lodgings, such as they were, but ill adapted to the exigency of their cases. These inconveniences, and demands increasing as the nature of the Charity became known, produced painful and disagreeable embarrassment in the feelings of the

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\* Between sixty and seventy apply annually for trusses, and receive them gratuitously, subject to certain regulations of the Charity.

medical officers, and finally led to the contemplation of a design, which has subsequently proved so eminently useful to the poor of this and the adjoining counties.

The prospects of increasing the benefits of this Charity were now brightened, and the genuine spirit of British benevolence and philanthropy, warmed by the success which had hitherto attended it, listened with delight to a "Plan\* for extending and perpetuating the utility of the General Dispensary at Denbigh, by erecting a public building with a suit of apartments, and wards, for accommodating the occasional demand, and varying circumstances of accident, disease, and poverty." It was also premised, that patients applying for admission into the wards, should pay a weekly sum during their continuance in the House, at such a low rate as would defray the expence of maintenance, and secure the funds of the Institution from being impaired or encroached upon.

At a meeting of the Governors held in 1810 (Dr. Cleaver, Lord Bishop of St. Asaph, in the chair) the plan was approved of, preparatory arrangements were entered into for commencing the building, a design for the same was kindly presented by Mr. Harrison, the eminent architect, of Chester; a liberal

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\* Vide "Proposals" published in 1810.

subscription was opened, and early in the year 1813 the present chaste and handsome structure was completed.

It is worthy of remark, that this Institution in its character as a House of Recovery, ranks as the first of its kind, established in this country, and had the benevolent views of the Governors been fully accomplished, it would also have been the first in its operations.

An Asylum for the Recovery of Health was instituted in London, under the Patronage of His late Royal Highness the Duke of York, and opened on the 19th of July, 1821. This institution is said to be peculiarly successful, and the wards, though the charges\* for admission are considerable, are crowded, and applicants often refused.

Houses of Recovery were originally pointed out by Mr. Howard, the distinguished philanthropist, in the year 1785, and recent English travellers on the continent have borne ample testimony to their general excellence and utility. They exist in France under the name of *Maisons de Santé*.

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\* Males 16s. 6d. females, 14s. 6d. children from 7s. to 10s. 6d. per week. Persons of either sex, having separate rooms, pay weekly, £. 1 1s.

The poor of this country must ever remain grateful to Dr. Cumming for his zeal and assistance in forming this Institution, (the Governors, sensible of the benefits he and his colleagues\* had conferred, testified their gratitude to each of them by the presentation of handsome pieces of plate;) and, upon the resignation of his appointment in January, 1823, he was elected Honorary Physician for life. It was also proposed that a public subscription should be entered into for his Portrait, which has since been painted by Pickersgill, and now adorns the Board Room of the Dispensary.

It is a difficult, and indeed an invidious task, to select one or more names from among those benevolent individuals, who were the first to promote this Charity, but we cannot avoid reiterating the vote of thanks to the Rev. Thomas Clough, Rector of Denbigh, for his zeal as chairman at its first meeting in 1807; neither can we refrain expressing the just tribute of gratitude to his brother the Rev. Roger Clough, to whom the Institution is mainly indebted for its origin.

A heavy debt, unavoidably contracted in the building, deprived the poor for many years of the benefits

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\* Mr. Moore, Mr. Pugh, and Mr David Hughes, Surgeons in 1809.



of the wards. Much praise however is due to the Rev. Dr. Howard the present Rector of Denbigh, through whose instrumentality, in a great measure, the debt was paid, and thus the Committee, aided by that characteristic benevolence of our country, were soon enabled to carry into full and complete effect the original intentions of its founders.

The wards were opened for the reception of In-Patients on the 1st of March, 1826. They are ten in number, and contain 16 beds. Two rooms are appropriated to the House Surgeon and attendant Nurse, respectively. The internal economy of the House is carried on under the superintendence of the resident Surgeon and Matron, and the Patients are constantly attended by nurses and occasional assistants.

Applications for admission into the Asylum must bear the signature of the Subscriber recommending, the minister of the Parish, or an order of vestry to the Overseer for the payment of 6s. per week for maintenance. The expence of removal, and, in the event of death, of funeral charges, are defrayed by the friends or parties recommending.

In 1828, this Institution having attained its 21st anniversary, was finally completed, its wards amply and commodiously furnished, and every possible comfort prepared for the continually varying circumstances of its inmates, and, though slender in its funds

and unobtrusive in its pretensions, it relies with confidence on that Providence, Who will not close the gates of mercy and compassion, nor remain regardless of the silent prayers and blessings of the poor.

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*We subjoin a Register of Patients who have derived benefit from the period of opening the Institution in 1807, to 1828.*

Patients recommended for advice and medicine, -	12727
Vaccine Inoculation, - - -	3322
Trusses gratuitously supplied, - - -	1419
Casualties, - - -	1269
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Total, - - -	18737

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\*.\* Upwards of 170 Patients have been received into the wards since they were opened in March, 1828.




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Denbigh, printed by Thomas Gee,



